

Message Text

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PAGE 01 OTTAWA 03379 082128Z

65

ACTION SNM-02

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 IO-03 EUR-08 L-01 NSC-05 NSCE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7461

INFO USMISSION USUN

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C O N F I D E N T I A L OTTAWA 3379

LIMDIS

FOR S/NM-AMBASSADOR VANCE

EO 11652 GDS

TAGS SNAR AORG UN CA

SUBJ POST OF DIRECTOR UN DIVISION OF NARCOTIC DRUGS

REF STATE 211806

1. LING IS PERSONALLY KNOWN TO EMBASSY DRUG COORDINATOR AND, THEREFORE, FOLLOWING INFORMATION MAY BE HELPFUL TO DEPT IN VIEW OF EMERGENCE OF GOC BACKING FOR LING CANDIDACY:

A. LING IS ONE OF THE VERY FEW CANADIANS INVOLVED IN NARCOTICS BUSINESS WHO TO THE PERSONAL KNOWLEDGE OF EMBASSY DRUG COORDINATOR HAS BEEN ABLE TO COMMAND THE RESPECT OF BOTH ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS AND SENIOR OFFICIALS IN NON-MEDICAL USE OF DRUGS DIRECTORATE. AS SO OFTEN OCCURS ELSEWHERE, CANADA IS NO EXCEPTION TO THE RULE OF THUMB THAT THERE IS USUALLY AN ARM'S-LENGTH ASSOCIATION BETWEEN INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED IN FIRSTHAND WORK WITH DRUG ABUSERS AND THOSE WORKING IN ENFORCEMENT.

B. AT OTTAWA UNIVERSITY, LING HAD UNUSUAL RAPPORT WITH STUDENTS AND STUDENT GROUPS INVOLVED IN VARIOUS ASPECTS OF THE DRUG ABUSE SCENE DESPITE WIDESPREAD KNOWLEDGE THAT HE FREQUENTLY SERVED AS EXPERT WITNESS FOR BOTH RCMP AND OTTAWA MUNICIPAL POLICE DRUG SQUAD.

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PAGE 02 OTTAWA 03379 082128Z

C. PROFESSIONALLY LING IS EXCELLENT.

D. HE ONCE TURNED DOWN SENIOR, PRESTIGIOUS POSITION AT HOWARD UNIVERSITY WHEN HE LEARNED THAT HE WAS BEING OFFERED THE JOB BECAUSE OF HIS COLOR RATHER THAN BECAUSE OF HIS PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS.

E. LING IS AN EXCEEDINGLY HARD WORKER WHICH PLACES A STRAIN ON HIS FRAGILE HEALTH. EMBASSY DRUG COORDINATOR IS UNCERTAIN WHAT LING'S HEALTH PROBLEM IS PRECISELY, BUT DOES KNOW THAT TREATMENT INVOLVES USE OF PREDISONE. AT ONE POINT ABOUT TWO YEARS AGO, HE SUFFERED A COLLAPSE AND HAD TO BE HOSPITALIZED AS A RESULT OF THE COMBINATION OF OVERWORK AND TOO-FAST A REDUCTION IN DOSAGE. EMBASSY HAS HEARD OF NO REPEAT OF SUCH OCCURRENCES, HOWEVER.

2. ON BASIS OF ABOVE INFORMATION, EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT IF USG FINDS ITSELF FACED WITH GROUNDSWELL OF SUPPORT FOR LING, HE WOULD MAKE GOOD CHOICE.
PORTER

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NNN

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